

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 remain in the application with claim 1 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Kimura et al. in view of Jarrad.

As previously explained, the present invention is intended to simplify the operation of a portable telephone that can execute a plurality of different functions selected from hierarchically structure menus. This is accomplished in part by providing so-called user keys that can be assigned selected ones of the plurality of functions. As explained in the present application, in the past the number of user keys typically corresponded to the number of the plurality of functions to be performed. This resulted in too many user keys being on the operating surface of the portable telephone. By providing the ability to select which of the plurality of functions is to be assigned to the small number of user keys, the number of user keys can be decreased. Moreover, the controller causes the display to display a short-cut icon next to each of the user keys that corresponds to the function relating to that user key. Since the functions of the user keys can be changed, the short-

cut icons must be on a display so that the icons can also be changed to show the proper functions.

In addition, by being able to assign specific selected functions to the execution keys, it is possible for the user to operate outside of the hierarchy of a menu and to go directly to a selected function by operating the user key.

Kimura et al. also relates to a portable telephone and provides a number of operation keys or function keys for use by the user. Nevertheless, unlike the present invention, the functions of the user keys are dedicated and different functions can not be assigned to various keys, as in the presently claimed invention. Moreover, because different functions can not be assigned, the same icon must be displayed at or near the operation buttons. The short-cut icons as in the present invention, which can be changed by the user, are not shown or suggested in Kimura et al.

Jarrad is cited for its showing of a five-way switch.

Nevertheless, Jarrad does not cure the deficiency of Kimura et al. relating to assigning selected functions to the function keys and then automatically displaying the corresponding icon adjacent to the function keys, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Moreover, as noted hereinabove, the provision of the execution keys and the ability to select the function for those

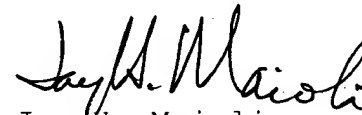
execution keys, the selected functions can be performed regardless of the hierarchy of the menu containing that function, as set forth in claim 3, is not shown or suggested in Kimura et al. and specifically, is not shown or suggested at column 3 line 62 through column 4, line 27.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claim hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a portable telephone for executing a plurality of functions, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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